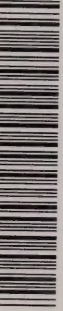


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ACAP News

acap news



CANADA'S GREEN PLAN



an intro- duction to acap

how acap will operate

what is acap?

Atlantic Canada is blessed with an abundant, rich and diverse marine environment that is vital to our economy, our culture and our enjoyment. It is an important part of who we are. All too often though, our waters have been used as garbage dumps for our waste. Not only has this led to serious economic hardships, such as shellfish closures, but it also directly threatens the ability of the marine environment to be useful to, and available for, future generations of Atlantic Canadians.

On December 11, 1990, Canada's Green Plan was released. This extensive document included an important initiative to help improve and restore Atlantic Canada's coastal waters. This initiative was, in part, the result of consultations with Atlantic Canadians from many walks of life who expressed their concern over the declining state of our marine environment and demanded action.

Within a few months of the Green Plan's release, the federal government followed through on its commitment to implement a marine environmental program and the \$10 million Atlantic Coastal Action Program (ACAP) was launched. This initiative will lead to the development of "blueprints" for managing the coastal resources of 12 areas in Atlantic Canada. These areas are: In New Brunswick, the Miramichi, Madawaska, Saint John,

St. Croix/Passamaquoddy and Letang areas; in Nova Scotia, the Annapolis River, Pictou and Sydney areas; in Prince Edward Island, Cardigan Bay and Bedeque Bay; and in Newfoundland, Humber Arm and St. John's.

Each project will be organized at the community level by those affecting, and affected by, environmental concerns. ACAP is founded on the premise that partnerships and joint action are the most effective means of achieving sustained environmental quality, and it will be up to the partners to ensure that viable solutions are identified and that Action Programs are put in place to implement these solutions.

Inherent to all ACAP initiatives is a focus on a community's watershed. All coastal areas are wedded to the watersheds that drain to them, and because of water's ability to absorb and transport waste materials activities, on both land and water, miles from a coastal area can actually have a tremendous effect on a coastal environment. Therefore, it is essential to ACAP's success that all major land and water users in the watershed area play a key role in the planning and implementation of ACAP projects.

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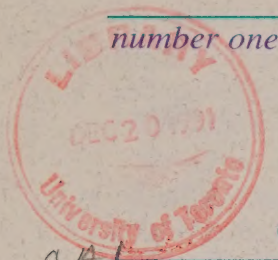
project committees

The success of ACAP is totally dependent on the strong participation of the residents of the 12 project areas. Local committees, comprising a cross-section of community residents as well as government, industry and business representatives, will be established before any of the major steps in the project begin. These committees must consider the social, economic and environmental aspects of their area and they will be responsible for planning, developing and implementing all facets of their project. Working together, we can begin to move towards the improvement and protection of our natural heritage.

a vision of the future

Our very existence depends on us having clean water and enough of it. In designing environmental quality projects, which help set goals for the environmental quality of an area, it is essential to establish firm objectives that will allow us to determine whether individual projects are achieving their desired effects. These objectives must be based on the knowledge and aspirations of local residents and must strike a balance between the desired uses of the watersheds and the social, economic and environmental costs and benefits of these, and other, uses. They are, in fact, concrete reflections of a long-term vision of the project area.

See operation... page 2



introduction...

how will acap benefit atlantic canada?

The degree to which environmental problems are affecting the social and economic fabric of Atlantic Canada varies from area to area, but it is most certainly both widespread and growing. ACAP is not the answer to all of our marine environmental problems, but it is a start. Several factors were considered in the selection of the initial 12 ACAP sites, including the existing state of the environment and the associated social and economic impacts of any environmental problems. Primarily though, ACAP is designed to demonstrate new, "made at home" approaches to dealing with environmental concerns. Lessons learned from these 12 areas will be shared with community-based groups in other areas and, over time, it is hoped that ACAP will provide the leadership necessary to address the major environmental issues affecting the marine environment of Atlantic Canada.

what will acap do?

ACAP projects will be led by community groups and, given the diverse range of environmental issues among communities, it will be a flexible program designed to address broad environmental issues, usually by focusing on the communities' watershed areas. At the end of the program, a comprehensive environmental management plan must be in place; and each plan must be action-oriented, with clear targets and schedules, and with the financing and implementing parties identified.

The Atlantic Coastal Action Program will ensure:

1. A full-time **community coordinator** and office for each of the 12 project sites;
2. An assessment of the **environmental quality** of each of the 12 areas, including the identification of all sources of environmental problems;

3. The development of a long-term **"Vision"** for each of the areas, which will be supported by clear objectives necessary to attain the long-term goals;

4. The identification and assessment of necessary **remedial actions** and **conservation measures**;

5. The development of **comprehensive environmental management plans**;

6. The promotion of **environmental stewardship** through education and awareness activities; and

7. The implementation of **pilot projects** that will demonstrate the importance and effectiveness of low-cost, innovative solutions to environmental issues in watersheds. ■

operation...

environmental quality assessment

Before starting projects, it is essential to understand the present state of the environment. Such quality assessments, or report cards, will not only indicate the extent and nature of the problems in an area, but will also provide a scale against which the success of individual projects can be measured. The environmental quality assessments will involve gathering all available information on the project area, identifying information gaps, and implementing specific studies and monitoring programs. The scope of the environmental quality assessment will include studying water quality, sediment, and all types of fish, wildlife and vegetation, as well as

acap sites

New Brunswick sites

- 1 Saint John Harbour
- 2 Miramichi Estuary
- 3 St. Croix / Passamaquoddy
- 4 Madawaska River
- 5 Letang Inlet

Nova Scotia sites

- 6 Pictou Harbour Estuary
- 7 Sydney Harbour
- 8 Annapolis River

Prince Edward Island sites

- 9 Bedeque Bay
- 10 Cardigan Bay

Newfoundland sites

- 11 Humber Arm
- 12 St. John's Harbour



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the identification of all sources of pollution. The information collected for each environmental assessment will not only use technical and scientific data, but will also make extensive use of the knowledge and skills of the local residents.

assessment of remedial measures

As already described, the first step in the ACAP process is to assess the quality of the environment in a project area. The second step involves the development of a long-term vision that is supported by clear objectives. The third step is to identify and assess those measures necessary to improve and sustain environmental quality, on the principles of user pays and polluter pays. These measures may include conservation measures, such as

soil and water conservation practices; capital projects, such as sewage and/or industrial waste treatment; and low-cost, innovative solutions, such as the use of wetlands to treat sewage or land use zoning to preserve water quality.

It is absolutely critical, however, that appropriate alternatives are considered and that proposed solutions are tailored to each community's "Vision" and that there is strong community acceptance. Otherwise, the results of ACAP will be relegated to the shelf and not put into action.

comprehensive environmental management plan

A major thrust of ACAP is the development of Comprehensive

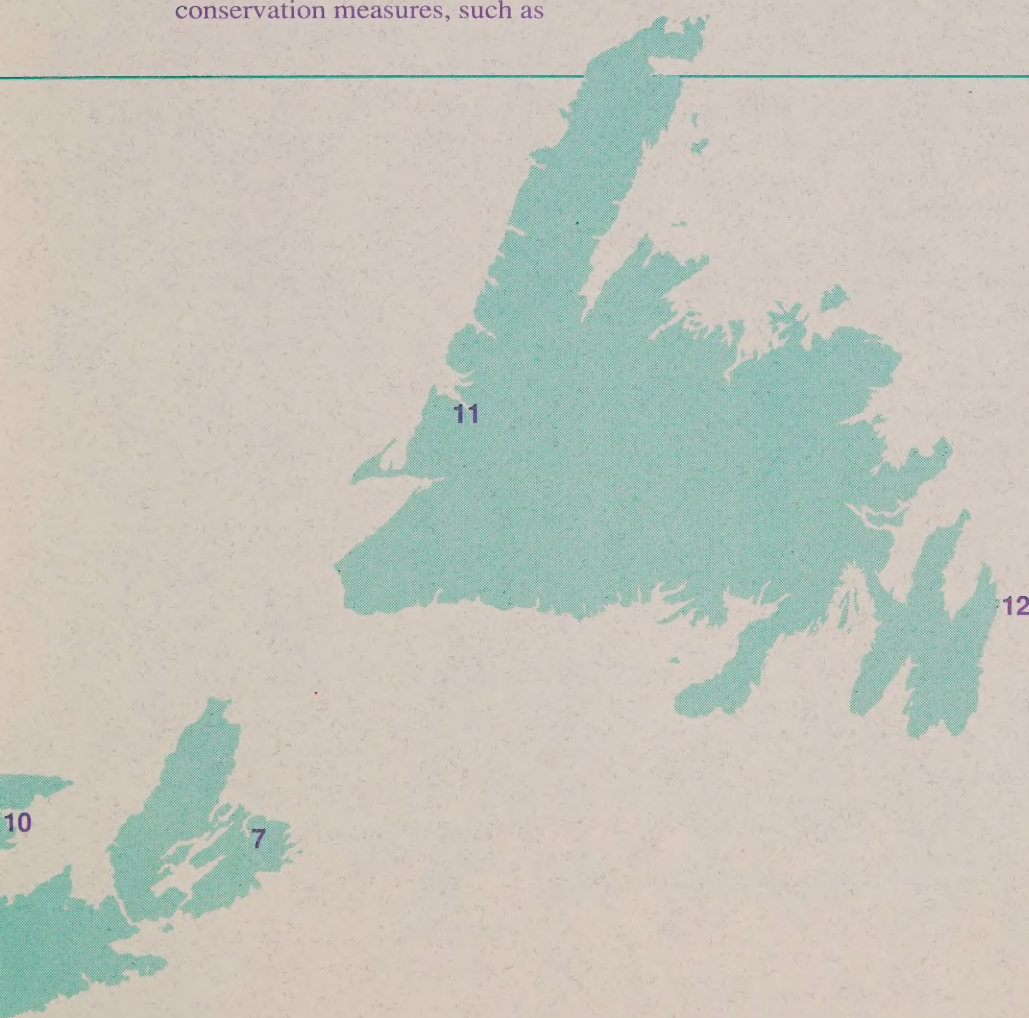
Environmental Management Plans. These plans will tie together information from the environmental quality assessments, the project objectives and the remedial measures assessment to devise a long-term strategy including the implementation of environmental protection and rehabilitation measures. These plans can be thought of as environmental maintenance manuals that outline problems, indicate objectives and list preventive and corrective action. As well, they will highlight specific initiatives, identify the responsible groups or individuals, identify where the financing will come from and specify a time frame.

demonstration projects

ACAP does not have the funds to pay for actually cleaning up areas, and indeed there are very good reasons why clean-ups should wait for extensive planning to conclude. ACAP will, however, fund pilot projects designed to demonstrate the feasibility of novel, low-cost solutions that have broader applications elsewhere.

It is difficult at this time to describe precisely the nature of potential demonstration projects, as they will vary widely from area to area. However, some examples might include:

- At source control of pollutants by changing the manufacturing process;
- Use of wetlands to treat run-off from urban or agricultural areas;
- The conservation of water and energy;
- The creation of green belts along river courses;
- The restoration or enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat;
- Composting of animal waste and fish offal;
- A community-based environmental watch program; and
- Novel ways to enhance education/awareness and stewardship programs. ■





guiding principles of acap

public participation

All those who live, work and play in coastal areas have a voice in ACAP decisions that will be made for those areas. That's why the program includes a strong public participation component. The fundamental principle behind ACAP requires that it be based on consensus among interested parties, all of whom will be given an opportunity to contribute to the program that is developed for their coastal area.

Clearly, decisions must be taken only after weighing all factors. Decision makers must therefore be informed. ACAP will provide funds to help community residents to be informed and to make them aware of environmental issues in their local area. Ultimately, once existing problems are resolved, residents living in watersheds must be kept informed of stewardship approaches, which are vitally important in the long term if we are to succeed.

partnerships

Keeping our coastal areas clean and healthy is a very big job and it cannot be accomplished by any one organization alone. There are many groups that have an interest in, a say in, or control over, the resources of our coastal areas. To achieve our environmental goals in an area as complex as the marine environment, it is essential that we establish partnerships. Indeed, ACAP is designed to operate through partnerships, which will foster joint action that is often less costly and more effective in the long run.

decision making

Under ACAP, decisions will be made by the partners who have joined together to form the community-based committees: decision-making will not be centralized in a bureaucracy. Rather the responsibility for making decisions will be vested in those that live, work or have an interest in the coastal areas.

acap seed funding

The resources required to develop a clean, healthy and prosperous environment are considerable. The government of Canada, through the Green Plan, has dedicated resources to this endeavour. However, that money has to be treated as a seed that can be planted in the coastal community. To accomplish the job at hand requires the energy and ideas of other partners, including community groups, wildlife organizations, small business owners and operators, industry and its associations, government organizations and environment groups.

The seed funding is drawn from the Green Plan and will be delivered through Environment Canada. It is intended to provide support to locally-based organizations that take on the responsibility of planning, raising additional funding, and implementing their ACAP program. The current level of commitment from Environment Canada is \$10 million over six years for all four Atlantic Provinces. ■

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Environment Canada
Atlantic Region

Environnement Canada
Région de l'Atlantique

Canada



if you'd like to become involved

getting started

If you feel that your area can benefit from ACAP, there are some important steps you should take:

- Establish a local committee with representatives from your community who have a variety of backgrounds and interests;
- Promote your goals and ideas to others, and establish a group of sponsors who will provide either in-kind or financial assistance. Establishing a legal structure, such as a non-profit society, will also make it easier for business and other groups to support you. Invite government and industry representatives to sit on your committee;
- Get strong support from your local municipal government and initiate some low-cost projects (e.g. beach sweeps and clean-ups) that will foster community participation; and
- Contact local environmental groups and management committees for advice, as they have already dealt with many of the same issues and problems that you will be facing. Learn from their successes and failures.

for more information:

If you would like more information about the Atlantic Coastal Action Program please contact:

The ACAP Coordinator
Environment Canada
4th floor, Queen Square
45 Alderney Drive
Dartmouth, N.S. B2Y 2N6 ■



CANADA'S GREEN PLAN



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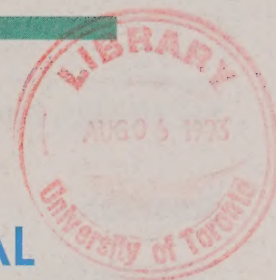
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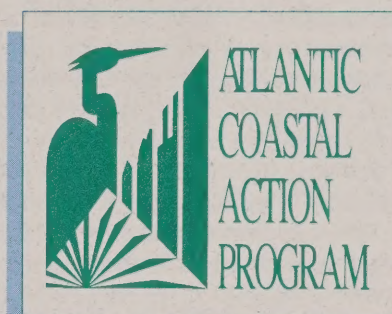
ATLANTIC COASTAL ACTION PROGRAM

MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR GENERAL



Perhaps nowhere else in Canada is there a program as ambitious as the Atlantic Coastal Action Program (ACAP).

This Green Plan initiative invites coastal community members to develop their vision for the future; set objectives for an environmentally sustainable future; and establish strategies that emphasize partnerships to help achieve those objectives. This is no small task for individuals and groups who do not normally work together and who often hold opposing views and have seemingly competing interests.



Atlantic Canadians, have not been intimidated by the challenge ACAP has placed before them. Stakeholder organizations are now up and running in 11 communities: two more are scheduled to come on line this year. In addition, many other coastal communities and stewardship organizations have expressed interest and support for ACAP. Support has come in many forms, ranging from the valuable time of volunteers to project funding from the Environmental Partners Fund. Support has also come from many other sources including municipal, provincial and federal government departments, non-government organizations, industry, the academic community and concerned individuals.

ACAP affords all levels of government the opportunity to work together with local stakeholders in addressing complex coastal issues. This opportunity can only lead to better service to the public and improved management of our coastal zones. Environment Canada is pleased to dedicate technical and scientific support to ACAP. Many of our employees work directly with stakeholder organizations, while many more work behind the scenes in support of ACAP endeavours.

The Atlantic Coastal Action Program remains a top priority for the Atlantic Region. I am impressed by the enthusiasm of the ACAP communities and look forward to 1993-'94. It promises to be an exciting and productive year as we continue to work together towards our common goal of an environmentally sustainable future for Atlantic coastal communities.

Ed Norrena

Ed Norrena
Regional Director General
Conservation and Protection
Environment Canada



CANADA'S GREEN PLAN

ACAP SITES

NEW BRUNSWICK

Saint John

The Atlantic Coastal Action Program (ACAP) Saint John Inc. signed a Letter of Understanding with Environment Canada in June, 1992. There are seven working committees, each focused on specific tasks to help develop a comprehensive environmental management plan and associated activities. These committees are: Fisheries; In-Kind Support; Public Information and Education; Special Projects; Technical Advisory; Land Use Planning; and Water Quality Monitoring.

In addition, ACAP Saint John has been busy with several other projects. They regularly sponsor an Alternative Forum Series, where speakers are invited to discuss topical issues from large-scale industrial developments to grassroots environmental projects. In this way ACAP Saint John members hope to become well informed about the activities being undertaken in their area, and to provide an opportunity for proponents to discuss their projects.

The organization has also largely completed their vision building and use objectives setting exercise. The results of this are now being prepared for broader public distribution and comment.

"Johnny Biosphere," a retired federal scientist who gives fun-filled environmental talks in schools, is also coming to New Brunswick, compliments of ACAP Saint John. As well, work is now under way by the group on the development of a liquid waste exchange program and a volunteer water quality monitoring program.

For more information please contact:

Frank Hogan, ACAP Saint John Inc. (506) 652-2227

St. Croix

The St. Croix Estuary Project Inc. (SCEP) signed a Letter of Understanding with Environment Canada in April, 1992, to develop an environmental management plan for the St. Croix estuary and the coastal waters surrounding the town of St. Andrew's.

In 1992, SCEP completed a public consultation project, which provided an overview of the key issues facing the estuary. Six task groups have also been established: Planning; Public Participation; Education; Environmental Quality Monitoring; Estuary Profile; and Special Projects. These groups are now busy preparing their work plans for 1993-'94. As well, plans are under way to develop a vision

statement and use objectives, and work has begun on a public outreach campaign to promote the work of SCEP and to build further citizen support and involvement.

For more information please contact:

Robert Rainer, St. Croix Estuary
Project Inc.
(506) 529-4868

Madawaska

ACAP is one year old in "La République." La société d'aménagement de la rivière Madawaska et du lac Témiscouata (SARMLT) signed a Letter of Understanding and has now completed one year of hectic ACAP activity. 1993 promises to be equally hectic — and equally rewarding.

Madawaska, the only freshwater site in ACAP, has a stakeholder group of about a dozen active people. This number should soon increase as public meetings are planned to open up the membership and to receive greater public input on the basin management study that is being conducted by Roche Consultants.

In addition to ACAP funding, the Madawaska group has received grants from other federal government departments, which will enable it to maintain a sound financial footing for the next four years. The group will also be the administrator of a recently announced \$2.5 million project sponsored by Employment and Immigration Canada. This project will include environmental, educational, and tourism components. Two of the most interesting initiatives of the project are the creation of a river association and the development of a local environmental review and regulatory body.

For more information please contact:

Louis-Philippe Nault, SARMLT, (506) 739-1992

Miramichi

The Miramichi River Environmental Assessment Committee was formed in 1989 in response to concerns over the expansion of the local pulp mill and the potential for further



WHAT IS THE ATLANTIC COASTAL ACTION PROGRAM?

HOW ACAP WORKS

The Atlantic Coastal Action Program is a community-based program that relies on local involvement and support.

Through ACAP, individuals, businesses, educators, environmental organizations, governments, and other interest groups, join together to form a committee, which then incorporates as a non-profit organization.

Once incorporated, the committee signs a Letter of Understanding with Environment Canada.

This Letter commits Environment Canada to provide money to help run an office and hire a coordinator. In return, the organization commits to developing a Comprehensive Environmental Management Plan for their local area.

In addition, both sides agree to work in the spirit of partnership: the local organization looks for other sponsors who will provide financial or in-kind resources, while Environment Canada encourages other federal and/or provincial programs to focus their efforts in ACAP sites, as well as providing expertise in a variety of environmental areas.

For more information please contact:

Jim Ellsworth, Atlantic Coastal Action Program, Environment Canada, (902) 426-2131.

A+ for ACAP

Nova Scotia College of Art and Design

Students from the Environmental Planning Faculty of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design spent a busy year working on ACAP projects in the Mahone Bay-Lunenburg area. This has given the students hands-on experience in coastal zone management and public involvement.

The projects they were involved in included a survey of residents to identify environmental concerns; an analysis of approaches to environmental management; the role of private stewardship in protecting natural resources; resource inventories; an analysis of the ACAP approach; and the development of a coastal zone management plan.

ACAP staff enjoyed working with these students and we wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

For more information please contact:

Bill Brimley, Atlantic Coastal Action Program, Environment Canada, (902) 426-4819.

Dalhousie University, Marine Affairs Program

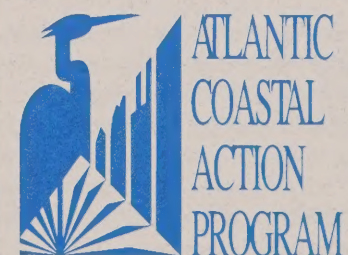
ACAP staff have been invited to co-supervise graduate students in the field of coastal zone management at Dalhousie University. The staff have given several talks to the students in the Marine Affairs Program about the benefits of the ACAP process to coastal zone management.

The students are a lively audience and demonstrate a keen interest in ACAP and its application to their studies. We wish them all well in their studies and look forward to supervising them in the up-coming year.

For more information please contact:

Carole Donaldson, Atlantic Coastal Action Program, Environment Canada, (902) 426-8606.

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degradation in environmental quality in the salmon river.

Many local residents representing industry, business, environmental groups, resource organizations, and the three levels of government worked together to determine the environmental quality of the Miramichi River and produced a major report in 1992. This report not only provides an environmental quality assessment of the River, but

recommends many solutions to help rectify existing problems and prevent new ones from developing.

The Miramichi River Environmental Assessment Committee became part of the Atlantic Coastal Action Program on April 1, 1993 and will now focus its efforts on further developing solutions to ongoing problems and on preparing a comprehensive environmental management plan to help ensure that those solutions are implemented.

For more information please contact:

Vernon Goodfellow,
Miramichi River Environmental Assessment Committee, (506) 622-7914

Letang Estuary

Although no committee has been put in place in the Letang area, plans have been made to begin establishing a committee this year.

For more information please contact:

Jim Ellsworth, Atlantic Coastal Action Program, Environment Canada, (902) 426-2131

NEWFOUNDLAND

Humber Arm

The Humber Arm Environmental Association Ltd. joined ACAP in February, 1992, when a Letter of Understanding was signed. There are approximately 20 stakeholders in the group, who represent many local interests.

As part of their work in developing a comprehensive environmental management plan, six community visioning sessions have already been held. In addition, as part of the

environmental quality assessment, a consultant has been hired to establish a database of environmental information and to identify any information gaps.

Another activity under way by the group is a partnership project dealing with the issue of hazardous household waste at the local level. The feasibility of diverting these wastes from the landfill for total destruction in the local cement company's kiln is now being examined.

For more information please contact:

Sean Dolter, Humber Arm Environmental Association Inc. (709) 634-1552

St. John's

A group of enthusiastic stakeholders in St. John's has incorporated under the name of St. John's Harbour ACAP Inc. A Letter of Understanding was signed on April 1, 1993 to develop a comprehensive environmental management plan for the St. John's Harbour and its watershed. This ACAP project will complement other environmental initiatives currently under way in the area.

The organization of the St. John's committee was lengthy but comprehensive; in a demonstration of support and commitment to the ACAP process a local volunteer organization provided financial support to assist with incorporation and other expenses, while many volunteers provided much needed in-kind support. This spirit of partnership bodes well for St. John's Harbour ACAP Inc. and the environmental future of the area.

For more information please contact:

Ed Cook, President, St. John's Harbour ACAP Inc., (709) 364-6102

NOVA SCOTIA

Sydney

ACAP-Cape Breton Inc. officially joined the Atlantic Coastal Action Program in January, 1993. There are approximately 75 stakeholders in the group, representing a very broad spectrum of interests.

The organization has been very active and has already: developed its vision statement and use objectives; begun work on collecting data for the environmental quality assessment; struck four working sub-committees — Public Relations/Education, Projects, Finance, and Goals.

The group has also started pursuing funding options for the hiring of students for various projects, and is receiving and assessing projects ranging from a demonstration of artificial wetlands to treat sewage, to setting up an environmental information database for educators.

For more information please contact:

Judy White, ACAP-Cape Breton Inc., (902) 567-6282

Lunenburg-Mahone Bay

Work is under way to establish a multi-stakeholder committee in this site. With help from the two municipalities and a local consultant, it is expected that an incorporated organization will be ready to sign a Letter of Understanding with Environment Canada by this summer.

For more information please contact:

Bill Brimley, Atlantic Coastal Action Program, Environment Canada, (902) 426-4819

Annapolis River

An existing community environmental organization, the Clean Annapolis River Project, signed a Letter of Understanding with Environment Canada in October, 1991 to develop a comprehensive environmental management plan for the Annapolis River area. The group has about 30 members, with as many as another 20 involved in specific committees. They also conduct various projects that involve hundreds of area residents.

The group was already a very active organization before coming under the ACAP umbrella, and this continues — with at least 10 projects under way at any given time. Recent projects directly relating to ACAP include hosting the first Community Conservation Workshop for ACAP, and an innovative project designed to collect information relevant to environmental quality.

This particular project involved: interviewing 50 senior citizens about changes they have observed during their lifetime (they reported water quality in the river had improved over the years due to greater environmental awareness and improved regulations); surveying 625 school-children about their environmental knowledge (it was found that they are indeed aware of global environmental issues, but do not link these concerns with the quality of their local environment); extensively reviewing the literature in the field (which provided a great deal of information on the Annapolis River allowing for some information gaps to be identified); and conducting 10 "kitchen table" workshops that helped identify local environmental concerns and aspirations.

For more information please contact:

Stephen Hawboldt, Clean Annapolis River Project, (902) 532-7533

Pictou

The Pictou Harbour Environmental Protection Project, which grew out of the Pictou Harbour Environmental Action Plan Committee, signed a Letter of Understanding with Environment Canada in November, 1991.

Prior to the formation of ACAP, an environmental quality assessment was carried out that described in detail the existing condition of the harbour, and identified potential solutions. Work is now under way to implement some of these

solutions and to develop a comprehensive environmental management plan.

In addition, a survey of 200 residents by the Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps, a public meeting to identify environmental concerns, and a stakeholder visioning exercise have all been completed. All these initiatives will help the group clarify watershed use objectives and identify key issues.

The group's coordinator has also been involved in the Federal-Provincial initiative to resolve problems with the Boat Harbour facility, which treats effluent from the Scott Maritimes Limited kraft paper mill.

For more information please contact:

Bob Christie, Pictou Harbour Environmental Protection Project, (902) 485-1999

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Bedeque Bay

The Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Association signed a Letter of Understanding with Environment Canada in May, 1992 and now has a membership of 87. In recent months the group has been fine-tuning their organizational structure and revising their bylaws to better reflect the ACAP process.

In addition, a strategic plan has been developed for 1993-'94, which will help set the direction for future activities. A cooperative agreement has also been signed with Holland College for computer-based projects related to environmental assessment and the selection of remedial options. Another key initiative now being discussed, will see the development of a pilot program to promote environmental farm plans within the project area.

For more information please contact:

Hal Mills, Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Association, (902) 888-8000

Cardigan Bay

The development of a representative stakeholder group in this area is being undertaken by the Southeast Environmental Association, which has signed a Letter of Agreement with Environment Canada. This project area is a particular environmental challenge because of the large number of watersheds, each with its own specific concerns.

The Southeast Environmental Association expects to have a stakeholder committee in place this year. In addition to the stakeholder committee development, activities in the area have included documentation of environmental concerns, and preliminary work is now under way on an environmental quality assessment.

For more information please contact:

Jim Parsons, Southeast Environmental Association, (902) 838-2992.

WORKSHOP NEWS

Early in the development of ACAP, Environment Canada recognized the need for an annual Community Conservation Workshop that would bring together representatives from all the ACAP organizations to share their experiences. Environment Canada is pleased to sponsor this annual event and to invite an ACAP organization to host it.

Community Conservation Workshop, 1992

The Clean Annapolis River Project, which oversees ACAP initiatives in the Annapolis River area, hosted the first Community Conservation Workshop, held at Acadia University in Wolfville, N.S.

The workshop was a tremendous success. Approximately 60 people attended, representing all the active ACAP sites, and other stewardship organizations also took part. Workshop topics included Citizen-Based Water Quality Monitoring; Media Relations; Building A Vision; Funding Options; and Building Community Support.

Perhaps most importantly the workshop gave ACAP participants the chance to get to know each other better, to learn from each other's experiences, and to forge new partnerships.

Environmental Quality Workshop

Experts from Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans, Health and Welfare and Energy, Mines and Resources met in March to discuss such questions as "What is an environmental quality assessment?", "What do we already know about environmental quality in the ACAP sites?", and "How can we ensure that information is passed on quickly and effectively?"

It was agreed that the components of an environmental quality assessment should be determined by the objectives the ACAP committees identify, and that much is already known about the sites, although the information is spread among many different agencies.

The participants agreed to help provide information to the sites and ACAP staff agreed to develop an efficient process for this.

For more information please contact:

Malcolm Black, Atlantic Coastal Action Program,
Environment Canada, (902) 426-5035.

Community Conservation Workshop, 1993

ACAP-Saint John Inc. will host the second Community Conservation Workshop, June 4-6, 1993.

As an extra bonus this year the ACAP workshop will follow an international conference entitled, "Economic and Environmental Opportunities in Harbours and Estuaries." Topics for the international conference include: Privatization of Public Facilities; Ways and Means of Resolving Conflicts in Harbourside and Coastal Access; and, Partnerships for Sustainable Development.

The themes for the ACAP workshops will be determined after all ACAP sites have made their recommendations. As in the past, Environment Canada will sponsor two representatives from each ACAP organization to attend the annual workshop.

For more information please contact:

Frank Hogan,
ACAP Saint John Inc.
(506) 652-2227



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ACAP

ATLANTIC COASTAL ACTION PROGRAM

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ACTION

Those community groups involved in the Atlantic Coastal Action Program are taking the concept of sustainable development and putting it into action. They are actively addressing complex issues that threaten traditional ways of life and, at the same time, limit new employment opportunities, such as ecotourism and aquaculture. In addressing these varied and complex issues, ACAP participants acquire new skills that help contribute to jobs in environmental industries.

ACAP community organizations clearly dispel the notion that communities must choose between jobs and the environment. Industries participate because they realize sustainable development is in their best interests. Similarly, environmentalists realize social and economic stability are prerequisites to sustainable development. In fact, the success of ACAP organizations is linked in large part to the ability of stakeholders to identify and focus on their common interests.

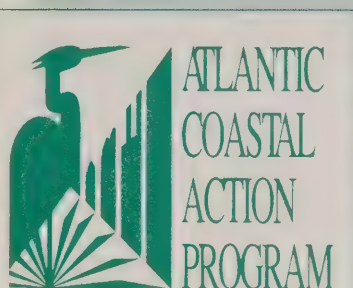
Their primary goal is to leave a healthy and productive environment for future generations.

There are now more than a dozen communities participating in the Atlantic Coastal Action Program. Although no two ACAP community organizations operate alike, they share many common threads: broad membership, partnerships with other

organizations, excellent communications, and strong public involvement. Indeed, each ACAP community group is actually a local working roundtable on the economy and the environment.

Bringing together environment, social and economic information in local decision-making is enabling ACAP groups to deal effectively with critical issues. Of course, this is not done in isolation. ACAP is well linked to other coastal community initiatives, which serves to ensure that knowledge and skills gained in one community are shared with other communities. Individually and collectively, coastal communities are taking responsibility for their future and securing that future by turning the concept of sustainable development into reality.

This newsletter contains a brief overview of the work under way in all 13 ACAP groups. We invite you to contact a local ACAP community coordinator to receive more information and to find out how you can become involved.



COASTAL ZONE CANADA '94 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Plan to be in Halifax during the week of September 19, 1994 for Coastal Zone Canada '94 — a major international coastal zone conference.

Coastal Zone Canada '94 will bring together representatives from coastal communities and non-government groups, the private sector and academics, scientists and managers, aboriginal groups, and all levels of government from throughout the Atlantic region and from more than 40 countries worldwide. You will be sharing your experiences and working toward the development of specific recommendations on how to advance the practice of integrated coastal management.

ACAP will figure prominently during the conference proceedings. With several presentations from ACAP sites and a special workshop on the area-specific approach being pursued within ACAP, our innovative approach to coastal management will be a strong attraction.

The conference will feature inter-disciplinary paper and poster presentations, workshops and roundtable sessions, a trade show and exhibition, training courses, field trips and numerous social events. It has been designed to allow for maximum interaction among participants.

The ACAP annual conference will follow immediately from Coastal Zone Canada '94, allowing for a full week of interaction and discussion. The consecutive nature of the two events will allow participants outside of ACAP to sit in as observers on the ACAP meeting.

For further information, please contact the Coastal Zone Canada '94 Conference Secretariat at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography in Dartmouth at (902) 429-9497

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION WORKSHOP, 1994

Lunenburg is the location for the Third Annual ACAP Community Conservation Workshop, which will run from September 23 - 25, 1994.

This year's workshop will follow immediately on the heels of COASTAL ZONE CANADA '94, which will enable ACAP representatives to attend both events. It will also give those people attending the international conference the opportunity to attend the ACAP workshop as observers. In addition to ACAP groups, representatives from other community-based, coastal zone management organizations will be invited to take part.

Workshop topics will be set after all ACAP sites have made their recommendations.

For more information please contact: Jim Ellsworth, Environment Canada, (902) 426-2131



COUNTING ON THE BIRDS

Once a month on a calm clear day, dozens of volunteer bird watchers in four different ACAP sites take their binoculars and head for a nearby stream, marsh, mudflat or shoreline to count the number and species of birds they see there.

The volunteers are part of a joint Canadian Wildlife Service/Atlantic Coastal Action Program project to help determine which species of aquatic birds may be most at risk from exposure to toxic chemical pollution in four ACAP sites: Saint John and the Miramichi in New Brunswick, and Pictou and Cape Breton in Nova Scotia.

At each of these ACAP sites, local naturalists met with Wildlife Service researchers to help identify those locations that should be monitored. The survey locations were selected to meet three criteria: that they have elevated levels of toxic chemical pollution; that they are areas likely to be used by waterfowl, gulls, seabirds or shorebirds; and that they are easy for volunteers to reach by car or on foot. Volunteers choose a survey location that is convenient for them to monitor regularly, for example, an area that is close to where they live or work. The total number of survey locations that are monitored for birds within each ACAP site depends primarily on the number of interested local volunteers and ranges from three in Cape Breton to 18 in Saint John.

Participating in the project requires only about one hour per month and the surveys are quite straightforward. Volunteers count the number and species of birds they see, map the precise location of the bird groups, and indicate whether the birds are feeding, resting, breeding or just travelling through the area. The surveys must be done when the visibility is good and birds are easily seen — in fine weather and light winds — so venturing forth in rain, snow or fog is not necessary.

Volunteers in Saint John recently attended a training workshop at the Rockwood Park Interpretation Centre. Canadian Wildlife Service biologists and volunteers discussed survey methods and exchanged ideas on how best to conduct the surveys. Although basic survey methodology has been prepared by the Wildlife Service, input from volunteers is vital to the final design of the surveys, as the volunteers do most of the field work.

The survey data that volunteers collect will be entered into the Geographic Information System (GIS) Database that Environment Canada researchers are compiling for each ACAP site. The GIS can then produce maps of bird concentrations that can be superimposed upon maps of pollution sources or toxic sediment deposition, or correlated with the location of proposed new development that may interfere with wildlife.

The surveys may thus help identify unique locations or habitats within an ACAP site that are in need of protection or clean-up because of their value to wildlife. Most importantly, however, data gathered by committed volunteers in various ACAP sites will add to our knowledge of the exposure of wildlife to toxic chemical pollution.

If you are interested in participating in this project, or if you are a member of a naturalist club or similar community group in an ACAP site, we would welcome your involvement.

For more information please contact: Kate Bredin, Canadian Wildlife Service, (506) 364-5044

CARAQUET BAY AND BOUCTOUCHE

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

In addition to the 13 ACAP sites, there are several management strategies being designed to address water quality issues in the Atlantic Region. Two such strategies initiated in eastern New Brunswick, along the Gulf of St. Lawrence, include the Caraquet Bay and Bouctouche Sustainable Development Projects.

The Bouctouche Sustainable Development Project came about as the result of a Task Force, appointed by the New Brunswick Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, to respond to increasing closures of oyster harvesting areas. The Task Force's present function includes giving guidance to a Working Group, with representatives from provincial and federal agencies, industry and the local community. The Working Group is assisted by two committees: the Communications Committee, responsible for public education and promotion, and the Technical Committee, responsible for planning and setting priorities.

The Bouctouche Project seeks to balance planning, community participation, and stakeholder involvement in addressing and managing water quality issues in the area. To date, studies and projects have been carried out to identify domestic and industrial septic and effluent sources. Using money from the New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund to assist in septic tank conversion for home owners, the Project has already replaced 20 inadequate sewage disposal systems.

After a long series of water quality studies carried out in Caraquet Bay from 1972-1989, the Caraquet Bay Sustainable Development Project was recently established. The objective of the Project is to bring together representatives of all levels of government, intermediate organizations and industry for the purpose of developing a long-term Working Group. The Minister's Task Force will review the action plan and recommendations of the Working Group. The Working Group, more diversely represented, will be responsible for identifying priorities, developing the action plan, and establishing objectives and time frames for a project team.

For more information, contact:

*Ronnie Boudreau
Field Co-ordinator
Bouctouche Sustainable Development Project
Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture
P.O. Box 760
Bouctouche, N.B. E0A 1G0
Phone: (506) 743-7222 Fax: (506) 743-7229*

*Claude Lebouthillier
Regional Co-ordinator
Caraquet Bay Sustainable Development Project
Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture
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Caraquet, N.B. E0B 1K0
Phone: (506) 727-6581 Fax: (506) 727-7467*

MIRAMICHI

In 1994 the Miramichi River Environmental Assessment Committee will add a number of new programs and events to their list of public services. An environmental action plan, based on the Committee's environmental goals and the recommendations contained in our Final Report on Miramichi Science, will be completed with implementation starting this spring.

From April 13th to 15th we hosted a science workshop, which was open to both scientists and the general public. Bringing together individuals from a variety of disciplines, this workshop informed groups of the range of on-going scientific research in the Miramichi area. The increased awareness that came out of this conference will help promote cooperation, avoid duplication of studies, and help direct future science in the Miramichi Watershed.

Our River Watch Program is entering its second year and plans are under way to expand the initiative. In addition to the environmental watchdog and public phone-in service, it will include water quality assessments. We will be training and equipping volunteers to patrol the Miramichi River by boat and to monitor the water quality.

With the return of the warm weather look for our Swim Watch program. The Swim Watch program monitors and informs the public of the water quality at key swimming locations. Also this summer, we plan to hire three students to assist in the Rural Wastewater Improvement Study. They will put clean-up programs in place, which are based on the 1993 study area. As well, we will begin to collect data from a new survey area.

*For further information please contact: Harry Collins,
Miramichi River Environmental Assessment Committee,
(506) 778-8591*

L'ETANG

There's a new group in the neighbourhood! Residents of the L'etang area of New Brunswick are the latest group to join the Atlantic Coastal Action Program. Tom Clark, a native of Charlotte County, New Brunswick, was recently hired as program director. His extensive experience with environmental issues includes working ten years in the aquaculture industry, serving as president of the Magaguadavic Watershed Management Association, and most recently completing an environmental business course.

The L'etang group will immediately begin organizing committees, developing a vision for the future and undertaking an environmental assessment.

*For further information please contact: Tom Clark, L'Etang
ACAP, (506) 755-6001*

MADAWASKA

In its second year with ACAP, the Société d'aménagement de la rivière Madawaska et du lac Témiscouata implemented several ecological, community and recreation/tourism projects to help enhance the natural resources of this large watershed area.

Among the more important initiatives we have put in place are: the development of bird-watching sites; the implementation of a community water sampling program; the identification of potential sources of pollution; the development of an educational project; and the construction of sills and deflectors in the area's tributaries to improve fish habitat.

At the same time, the Madawaska River has undergone a veritable rejuvenation process. In addition to projects involving clean-up, recovery of wood and demolition of old pillars used for log driving, the

banks of the river have been stabilized and developed to offset erosion and sedimentation.

On the recreation/tourism side, the Société d'aménagement has begun construction of a 62-kilometre park between Edmundston, N.B., and Cabano, Quebec. This park, built on an abandoned railway right-of-way, follows the shores of the river and the lake over more than half its length, thus enabling outdoor enthusiasts to become familiar with, and to appreciate, the natural resources of the region.

The Société plans to continue work on this project and hopes to complete the development of the park this summer. This will go a long way towards restoring the river and the lake to their traditional place of honour.

*For further information, please contact Martin Dumesnil,
Société d'aménagement de la rivière Madawaska et du lac
Témiscouata, (506) 739-1992*

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

BEDEQUE BAY

The Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Association has recently hired a new coordinator. Brenda Penak is looking forward to helping the Association raise its profile within its territory, and strive towards the development of a comprehensive environmental management plan. She will be actively working to foster communication and participation among the various committees of the Board, the Association's membership and the community.

To accomplish these goals, the Association plans to become more involved in local events, such as fairs and exhibitions, and develop presentations and cooperative projects with educational, institutions and community service groups. The Association also aims to encourage stakeholder involvement by facilitating environmental awareness events, such as an information session on tree and shrub planting, watershed "open houses" and community coastal awareness and riparian walks. The potential to initiate citizen-based volunteer monitoring projects is also being investigated.

One recently completed project is a riverine habitat assessment. The data is currently being put into a GIS system by Holland College, in cooperation with the Southeast Environmental Association, the ACAP group in Cardigan Bay, and funded through a Sustainable Fisheries Agreement.

A sustainable agriculture project was also completed. This study involved landowner contact and aimed to identify key erosion sites and recommend appropriate remedial action.

A draft research paper contributing to the environmental quality assessment of the Bedeque Bay watershed is available. Review by the Project Committee will help identify gaps and determine if additional study needs are required.

A pilot project to develop Environmental Farm Plans on P.E.I. was completed, in cooperation with a number of agencies, including the P.E.I. Soil and Crop Association, Agriculture Canada, the P.E.I. Environmental Farm Plan Coalition and the Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Association.

Directors of the Association's newly elected Board participated in a formal visioning session, which will set the direction for the completion of a comprehensive environmental management plan.

*For more information please contact: Brenda Penak,
Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Association (902)
888-8031*

NOVA SCOTIA

LUNENBURG – MAHONE BAY

Residents of Lunenburg and Mahone Bay have joined with ACAP to promote the environmental health of coastal waters in Atlantic Canada.

The group, formally called the Bluenose Atlantic Coastal Action Program (but known locally as Bluenose ACAP), was organized to manage a three-year program to develop a comprehensive coastal environmental management plan.

The Board of Directors of Bluenose ACAP has hired a Program Coordinator to implement and co-ordinate the activities of the site. They were looking for candidates with a Degree or Diploma in environmental studies, planning, or a related discipline, past experience in the implementation of pilot and/or demonstration projects of an environmental nature, administrative abilities, proven written and verbal communication skills, and knowledge of the Lunenburg/Mahone Bay area.

Bluenose ACAP is also now developing strategies to help in the conservation and sustainable use of the coastal waters of the area. Following the hiring of a co-ordinator, task groups are being set up to identify the area's environmental assets and problems, conduct fundraising activities and increase public awareness.

For further information please contact: Mike Parker, Bluenose ACAP, (902) 624-9888

CAPE BRETON

ACAP Cape Breton has been hard at work addressing three vitally important questions: What is the current state of the environment in Cape Breton? Are there certain areas of Cape Breton that suffer greater environmental problems? What information is available on the environmental issues in Cape Breton?

Collecting information on the state of the environment in the target area of industrial Cape Breton has been the focus of much of last year's initiatives. To assist in the access and interpretation of information two new computer programs have been installed: an on-line library system and an environmental mapping program.

The in-house library system is an information source for the community, containing literature ranging from PCB incineration to endangered species. Thanks to the assistance of a local university student, an annotated bibliography is being compiled using INMAGIC-Plus, a user-friendly library database.

Databases ranging from active farms to water and sediment quality are also being compiled and integrated by two local students into SPANSMAP, a desktop mapping program. Eventually, a number of theme map overlays will be generated that will contain all available environmental data for the area. This project was made possible through partnerships with the University College of Cape Breton, Environment Canada, the Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps, Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation and Atlantic Geomatics Research Inc.

Planning future action is also an important job, and in February ACAP Cape Breton hosted a very successful Environmental Planning Workshop. This workshop gave members an opportunity to develop project ideas and provide direction for the ACAP group over the next three years. The Strategic Planning Sub-Committee has reviewed the ideas and recommended priorities for the group.

ACAP Cape Breton is now developing a project concept to address one of the biggest challenges the Committee faces: increasing environmental awareness and interest. They are preparing a proposal, in partnership with a local radio station, for a public awareness campaign, as well as investigating the possibilities of combining a

detailed stream assessment/enhancement project with volunteer water quality monitoring.

For further information please contact: Judy White, ACAP Cape Breton, (902) 567-6282

ANNAPOLIS

Fish restoration is an important issue for this ACAP site, so this summer, in partnership with the Bear River Band Council, we hope to offer a fish habitat training course. This project will see native participants trained in the techniques of fish habitat restoration.

We are currently seeking funding for a riparian stewardship project, which would attempt to effectively unite concerns for wildlife, human use and fish habitat. The initiative will focus on a selected stream and the waterways that feed into it. Depending upon the findings, possible solutions may include planting trees, in-stream work, and correcting pollution problems.

The Clean Annapolis River Project (CARP), which oversees ACAP activities in the Annapolis River area, also hopes to launch an oil spill contingency planning program for the coastal area. Community response to this initiative, implemented in conjunction with other organizations, has been excellent: four high school students with the Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corp submitted a proposal to assist with oil spills and map out shore resources, and a Dalhousie graduate student volunteered to coordinate the program for four months.

Another way the community is involved in the environment here is through a private landowner stewardship program. This is a voluntary program whereby landowners sign a stewardship agreement guaranteeing to protect their land by leaving it in its present natural state for a period of 10 years. A certificate of appreciation given to all landowners in the program applauds their "foresight in recognizing the environmental value of their property" and commends them "for protecting their property for the enjoyment of future generations."

Finally, CARP members will be involved in two up-coming conferences: The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Conference, which will be held in Wolfville in August, and a workshop on community-based environmental management being held just prior to the Coastal Zone Canada '94 conference in Halifax.

For further information please contact: Stephen Hawboldt, Clean Annapolis River Project, (902) 532-7533

PICTOU

The first quarter of 1994 has been extremely busy for Bob Christie, Coordinator of the Pictou Harbour Environmental Protection Project.

One major initiative in which we play a critical role, for example, is the Boat Harbour Treatment Facility. We provide public education and awareness and effectively relay residents' concerns to the provincial department responsible for the operation of the Facility.

Extreme winter weather conditions have forced us to delay our volunteer citizens' water quality monitoring program until the spring. However, we are continuing to work on the East River Project, in conjunction with the Pictou County River Association.

This project will help identify and map erosion sites, obstructions, pollution point sources, water testing sites, habitat enhancement sites, bank stabilization and greenbelt sites, and recreational fishery sites, as well as determining access to the area. The Dalhousie University and the Technical University of Nova Scotia project team is also continuing to examine the role of economic instruments in community-based water quality management.

The Pictou Harbour Environmental Protection Project has also joined forces with other community groups to co-host two workshops in the summer of 1994. In partnership with the Pictou County Community Futures Sub-Committee on the Environment we will

launch a Pictou County Municipal Round Table on the Environment and the Economy, while a business sector workshop on "due diligence" is being planned with the Pictou Regional Development Commission and the Pictou County Chamber of Commerce.

For further information please contact: Bob Christie, Pictou Harbour Environmental Protection Project, (902) 485-1999

NEW BRUNSWICK

ST. CROIX

The St. Croix Estuary Project (SCEP) signed a Letter of Understanding with Environment Canada in April, 1992 to develop an environmental management plan for the St. Croix River Estuary and the coastal waters surrounding the town of St. Andrews. The Board of Directors of SCEP recently approved expanding the initial project area to include Bocabec Bay, thus extending SCEP's eastern boundary to meet the western boundary of another ACAP group, the Eastern Charlotte Waterways.

In 1993-1994 SCEP furthered work to develop a vision statement for the project area, implemented a successful community-based water quality monitoring program, and undertook various awareness and education activities, including publishing a general project brochure, the first issue of a periodical progress report, and a series of newspaper articles. Presentations were also made to a number of stakeholder organizations in an effort to exchange information and build working relationships.

In developing the vision statement, SCEP designed and distributed a survey to help identify people's values and concerns regarding the coastal area. Two hundred and fifty-nine people have completed the survey to date and the results indicate that the highest values are placed on a clean environment, wildlife and marine life, and natural scenery and beauty.

The water quality monitoring program, operated on a pilot basis, involved 50 people directly in planning and implementation, including SCEP's Water Quality Monitoring Committee, eight citizen volunteers, 29 senior high school science students, two teachers, and SCEP staff. The focus of the monitoring was on bacterial contamination that has severely affected a local shellfish industry worth millions of dollars. Strong support for, and cooperation in, the program was provided by government agencies on both sides of the international border, as well as by the Georgia-Pacific Corporation.

In 1994-1995 SCEP intends to work on 20 distinct program and projects including finalizing the vision statement; expanding the water quality monitoring effort; mapping the coastal zone following a successful methodology used in Shelburne County, Nova Scotia; and completing a study on the use of economic instruments to address the problem of septic system management.

For more information please contact: Rob Rainer, St. Croix Estuary Project Inc., (506) 529-4868

SAINT JOHN

ACAP Saint John has acquired a second office — prime store-front space on the main atrium at Market Square — and it's rent-free! In-kind support has been provided by Environment Canada, The Market Square Corporation, NB Tel, Gem Photo, A Gift for All Seasons, Earthhelp, Smith Books, Alan Campbell and Bob Howe. The store-front will be used to display some of our work. Additional public awareness is being planned through our involvement in the schools, local events, and public meetings to inform the public on the Gulf of Maine ecosystem, and give them tools for at-home reduction of hazardous wastes.

Following our successful workshop on "Financing Alternatives," the organizing committee for the Wastewater Workshop made a presentation to the Mayor and Council to encourage a complete exploration of public and private partnership opportunities. ACAP Saint John will also submit a proposal to the City of Saint John to adopt water conservation as a key component of its new Municipal Wastewater Strategy.

As well as these new initiatives ACAP Saint John has a number of on-going projects:

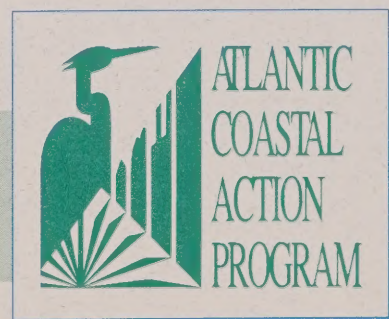
- A one-year project examining the possibility of a Liquid Waste Exchange has completed its start-up phase and is awaiting direction from the funding agency;
- Data analysis for a PAH project has been conducted, and follow-up initiatives are now being considered;
- A draft of the Community Environmental Profile has been submitted for stakeholder comment and is expected to be ready for publication by August 1994; and
- All these projects, as well as an Environmental Quality Assessment Research Project, a Community Environmental Monitoring Program, and an Education Project are considering possible applications of the recently installed GIS SPANS Mapping System.

Up-coming ACAP projects in the area include a two-year research project in which marine biologist Sean Brilliant will examine contaminants in a compete food web in Saint John, and a pollution prevention program aimed at helping local industry put environmental improvements in place.

In addition to these projects, ACAP Saint John has been working with other community groups on joint initiatives. We have worked with a committee formed by Uptown Saint John Inc. to develop a small craft harbour facility to serve both the fishing sector and pleasure boaters, and with the Clean The Bay Campaign to develop Terms of Reference and funding for proper disposal of shipboard waste in the region.

For more information please contact: Frank Hogan, ACAP Saint John, (506) 652-2227

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CARDIGAN BAY

The environmental quality assessment for Cardigan Bay area is nearing completion. Since many of the problems of this site are shared by the other ACAP site in PEI much of the work was done under a joint contract with the Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Association. The environmental quality assessment follow-up, as well as new initiatives, promise to make the next months busy ones for the Southeast Environmental Association.

Last spring the Board of Directors and stakeholders developed a long-term vision for the area. Now we're planning to hold meetings in which local municipal councillors will be informed of this vision and encouraged to contribute their ideas and advice.

The Cardigan sanitary landfill site continues to be a major concern for residents of the area. We are taking the first step toward solving this problem through a pilot project in recycling and composting that will reduce the amount of waste going into the landfill. In addition, we conducted a study to determine possible connections between the landfill, gull populations, rainfall and bacteria levels in the nearby estuary. Although the results from this study were inconclusive, it will help provide direction for future studies.

On the stewardship front, the Southeast Environmental Association is initiating an environmental awareness project in conjunction with the museum in Montague. As part of this project we will develop mobile exhibits, brochures, teachers' kits and interpretive activities. Two additional projects planned for the residents of the Cardigan Bay area are the installation of an environmental "hotline" the public can call for information or to report problems, and the publication of a environmental column in the local newspaper.

*For further information please contact: Jim Parsons,
Southeast Environmental Association, (902) 838-2992*

NEWFOUNDLAND

ST. JOHN'S

Public awareness and education are high priorities for St. John's Harbour ACAP. Public lectures, promotional brochures, newsletters and school contests are some of the many ways we have promoted our environmental concerns about the Harbour.

The production of a 10-minute video discussing the condition of the Harbour, has been completed and is now being distributed. It will be used in schools and at public meetings to inform the public and serve as the beginning of a discussion in which the public voice their concerns and ideas.

We are now planning to develop another promotional tool: an information display unit. The display unit will be used at conferences, meetings, and set-up in the St. John's Harbour ACAP office.

St. John's Harbour ACAP has concentrated on school children and university students who, it is hoped, will bring the message back home to their parents. Two projects are currently being developed that will both educate and involve students in environmental issues. The "speakers bureau" will consist of a list of speakers interested in giving presentations to students, and junior and high school students will be encouraged this spring to participate in a debate on the environment hosted by St. John's Harbour ACAP.

In addition, plans are well under way for a Harbour Day Celebration 1994 that the whole family will be able to take part in.

*For further information please contact: Donna Gardner, St.
John's Harbour ACAP, (709) 722-4973*

HUMBER ARM

Humber Arm ACAP wants the community to reach out their arm to lend a hand. We are on the look-out for low-cost initiatives that offer opportunities for community involvement.

But before we look to outside consultants, we want to fully explore the resources of our local area. Whether it's organizing community working groups and teachers to conduct environmental quality assessments, or chartering fishing vessels from local unemployed fishermen, local residents contribute directly to solving the environmental issues that are affecting Humber Arm. The wealth of environmental expertise in our local universities and institutions is leading us now to actively recruit their representatives into the stakeholder process.

A working group of professionals is being organized to assist in the operation of the recently installed geographic information system (GIS). All studies conducted in the Humber Arm coastal area will now be put into this computer database, which will enable us to increase our understanding of the environmental problems facing the area and help find a solution.

It's important to know that we are not alone in our quest for a healthier environment. Our partners have been sharing their concerns with other environmental groups throughout Canada by attending a number of conferences. These conferences provide a unique opportunity to inform participants of environmental programs in other parts of Canada, as well as increase our network of environmentally concerned individuals.

*For further information please contact: Sean Dolter, Humber
Arm ACAP, (709) 634-1552*

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION WORKSHOP, 1993

The Second Annual ACAP Community Conservation Workshop was hosted by ACAP Saint John and was held at the University of New Brunswick, Saint John Campus.

The efforts of many volunteers and the keen participation of the 60 attendees made the workshop a tremendous success. Workshop topics included citizen-based water quality monitoring; economic instruments in the ACAP planning process; and environmental quality assessments.

Participants had the opportunity to work with their peers from other communities. The contacts they made, the ideas they shared and the partnerships they forged have proven extremely valuable.

*For further information please contact: Jim Ellsworth,
Environment Canada (902) 426-2131*



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